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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/916,323	07/30/2001	Mark A. Kirkpatrick	BS01-091	9192
45695 7590 05/04/2007 WITHERS & KEYS FOR BELL SOUTH P. O. BOX 71355 MARIETTA, GA 30007-1355			EXAMINER NAWAZ, ASAD M	
			ART UNIT 2155	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 05/04/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/916,323	Applicant(s) KIRKPATRICK	
	Examiner Asad M. Nawaz	Art Unit 2155	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-45 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the RCE filed 2/19/07, Claims 1-14 and 46-49 were previously canceled. Claims 15, 26, 35, and 40 were amended. No other claims have been amended, added, or canceled. Accordingly, claims 15-45 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 15-45 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 15-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weschler (USPAT 6,757,720) further in view of Wischinski (USPAT 6,801,920).

As to claim 15, Weschler teaches an application properties server network comprising: a plurality of client application servers operating applications using a plurality of computer protocols and requiring configuration variable data to configure the applications for operation (col 1, lines 49-67; col 9, lines 3-15);

means for performing configuration services in response to configuration requests from said plurality of client application servers, said means for performing

configuration services being coupled to said plurality of client application servers, said configuration services including providing configuration variable data to one of the client application servers in response to receiving a request for configuration variable data from the one client application server (Figs 2 and 3, col 9, lines 3-42 and col 10, lines 41-65); means for storing and maintaining a system of configuration variable data coupled to said means for performing configuration services; and means for interfacing said plurality of client application servers to said means for performing configuration services (col 10, lines 41-65).

However, Weschler does not explicitly indicate wherein the means for storing and maintaining comprises at least an APP table that maintains an entry for each application, a version table that maintains a entry for each version under each application, an APARM table that contains key configuration variable data pairs associated with each version, and wherein the configuration request includes an application id and a key where the key is a data string that identifies the configuration variable data being requested..

Wichinski teaches means for storing and maintaining comprises at least an APP table that maintains an entry for each application, a version table that maintains a entry for each version under each application and an APARM table that contains key value pairs (col 3, line 62 to col 4, line 13).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teachings of Wichinski into those of Weschler to make the

system better organized. Maintaining separate tables would allow for easier and more precise access to desired information, thus improving the overall system.

As to claim 16, Weschler teaches a server of claim 15 wherein said means for interfacing said plurality of client application servers to said means for performing configuration services includes a CORBA server application (col 8, lines 21-43).

As to claim 17, Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 16, wherein said means for interfacing said plurality client application servers to said means for performing configuration services includes a properties server application for handling RMI requests for configuration services (col 8, lines 21-43).

As to claim 18 Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 17, wherein said means for interfacing said plurality of client application servers to said means for performing configuration services includes a common database access library (col 8, lines 21-43; col 16, lines 44-51).

As to claim 19, Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 18, wherein said means for interfacing said plurality of client application servers to said means for performing configuration services includes a database server coupled to said properties server application for handling RMI requests and said CORBA server application for interacting with said means for storing and maintaining configuration information (col 8, lines 21-43; col 16, lines 44-51).

As to claim 20, Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 15, further comprising a Java RMI API (col 8, lines 21-43; col 9, lines 43-53).

As to claim 21, Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 20, further comprising a CORBA gateway (col 8, lines 21-43).

As to claim 22, Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 21, wherein said means for performing configuration service is implemented by a base Java RMI service in a service broker framework (col 8, lines 21-43; col 9, lines 43-53; col 16, lines 44-51).

As to claim 23, Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 22, wherein said service broker framework is implemented using at least one XML service broker configuration file (col 8, lines 21-43; col 16, lines 44-51).

As to claim 24, Weschler teaches an application server according to claim 23 wherein said configuration information is stored and retrieved from said storage medium via Key value pairs (col 5, lines 39-40; col 12, lines 34-43).

As to claims 25, Weschler teaches the system of claim 15, however, Weschler does not explicitly indicate the configuration information is stored and retrieved from said storage medium via Hashtable hierarchy and the traversal of data in the form of hashtables. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate this feature into the disclosure of Weschler to make the system more efficient. It is difficult for the network switches to quickly scan a table for the referenced address, locate the address, and make a frame forwarding decision as the table grows with table entries storing address information especially if the address information is stored in sequential order. It would be optimal to involve hash keys and hash tables to improve accessing of switching logic.

As to claim 28, Weschler teaches the system of claim 2 wherein said configuration information is represented by a storage schema in the form of LDAP (Fig 3, 306, 307; col 10, lines 41-65).

Claims 26-27 and 29-45 present no further limitations above the above-mentioned claims and are thus rejected under similar rationale.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Asad M. Nawaz whose telephone number is (571) 272-3988. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


AMN


SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER